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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 7283

NOFORN

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 9/5/99 (AMOTT, JOHN C.) OR-N
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 5

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7200

1. SUMMARY: KNOWN AUGUST DISAPPEARANCES MAY NOW
TOTAL 12. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOA MAY
REVEAL THAT SOME IF NOT ALL OF THESE DISAPPEARANCES
WERE RELATED TO THE BREAK UP OF TERRORIST OPERATIONS.
THE IAHRC SEEMED TO BE FORGING AHEAD. END SUMMARY.

2. DISAPPEARANCES -----
TWO MORE DISAPPEARANCES IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST CAME TO
OUR ATTENTION SINCE OUR LAST WEEKLY ROUNDUP. THE
AUGUST 30 DISAPPEARANCE OF RAUL ARAMENDI WAS REPORTED
TO THE EMBASSY BY HIS MOTHER AND WIFE (BUENOS AIRES 7324).
IN ADDITION, ON SEPTEMBER 5 UPI REPORTED THE AUGUST 30
DISAPPEARANCE OF OSCAR ROMERO, A RAILWAY FOREMAN. WE ARE
CHECKING THE VALIDITY OF THIS LAST REPORT WITH ARGENTINE
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

3. XDS-4 - NOFORN: POSSIBLE GOA REVELATIONS -----
WE NOTE THAT THERE IS SPECULATION HERE THAT THE
GOA COULD BE READYING TO MAKE AN EXPLANATION--EVEN A PUBLIC
EXPLANATION--OF THE BULK, IF NOT ALL, OF THE AUGUST
DISAPPEARANCES. ACCORDING TO ADMITTEDLY INCONCLUSIVE
EVIDENCE, SUCH AN EXPLANATION WOULD DEAL WITH THE DIS-
APPEARANCES AS PART OF A MAJOR GOA COUP AGAINST TERRORISTS.
INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY, FOR EXAMPLE, SUGGESTED
TO A WESTERN DIPLOMAT LAST WEEK (BUENOS AIRES 7324 PARA 5)
THAT THE AUGUST DISAPPEARANCES WERE PART OF A TERRORIST ROUND-UP
AND WOULD SOON BE EXPLAINED IN THIS LIGHT.

SECURITY FORCES SCORED IMPORTANT VICTORIES IN AUGUST
AGAINST BOTH MONTONEROS AND FAP AND THE DISAPPEARANCES,
ACCOMPANIED BY ARMS SEIZURES, WERE THE FRUITS OF THAT SUCCESS.
THIS LATTER REPORT FITS WITH SPECULATION AND INFORMATION
WE TRANSMITTED IN OUR PAST TWO ROUNDOUPS. OF COURSE, GIVEN
THE ATTENTION NOW FOCUSED ON ARGENTINA BY THE IAHRC,
NOTHING WOULD BE SO CONVENIENT TO THE GOVERNMENT AS A
SPLASHY REVELATION OF THE KIND THAT MAY POSSIBLY BE IN
THE OFFING, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO CONCLUDE AT THIS
POINT THAT THE GOA IS FABRICATING A STORY. THERE
ALMOST CERTAINLY ARE STILL TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN ARGENTINA
AND WE MUST WAIT TO SEE THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY THE GOA
SHOULD IT FOLLOW THE SCENARIO OUTLINED ABOVE.

4. IAHRC VISIT -----
THE IAHRC PREPARATIONS CONTINUED DURING THE WEEK. REFERRING

TO THE VISIT PRESIDENT VIDELA STATED PUBLICLY AUGUST 30
"ARGENTINA HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AND EVEN LESS TO BE ASHAMED
OF." MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE TEAM CLAIMED THAT THEIR
ACTIVITIES WERE BEING TOO CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE POLICE,
A COMPLAINT, WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHERS, THAT CAUSED THE
CLOSE SUPERVISION TO CEASE. (FOR DEVIANT REASONS, THE
EMBASSY IS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN A DISTANCE FROM THE IAHRC
DURING ITS VISIT AND WE SHALL NOT BE SEEKING CONTACT WITH
IT.) ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES HAVE NOTED TO US
THAT THE RECENT RAIDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAS
CAUSED PEOPLE TO SHY AWAY FROM APPROACHING THEM. ONE
SOURCE ALSO EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THE RECENT PUBLIC
TENSION BETWEEN THE GOA AND USG HAS MADE PEOPLE MORE

NOTE BY OC/T: CAUTION: THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release (X) Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full

(X) Classify as S () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date 5/31/01 Declassify on Reason 25 X 1

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FEARFUL OF APPROACHING THIS EMBASSY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS (ALTHOUGH DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THE FREQUENCY OF APPROACHES TO US HAVE BEEN IN LINE WITH PAST PATTERNS). NEVERTHELESS PEOPLE SEEM TO BE ANXIOUS TO GET THEIR STORY TO IAHRC AND NOBODY HAS SUGGESTED TO US THAT RECENT ACTIONS BY THE GOA HAVE DISSUADED THOSE DESIRING TO MAKE COMPLAINTS. TO THE CONTRARY THE SOURCE WHO CLAIMS THAT PEOPLE MAY NOW HESITATE BEFORE COMING TO THE EMBASSY STATES THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT AFRAID OF GOING TO THE IAHRC. IN THE ARGENTINE "ESTABLISHMENT" FORMER PRESIDENT ONGANIA HAS PUBLICLY REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE COMMISSION ON GROUNDS OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY WHILE FORMER PRESIDENT LANUSSE, AFTER LONG SEMI-PUBLIC DELIBERATION, HAS COME TO AN OPPOSITE CONCLUSION. THE PRESS HAS MADE MUCH OF THE FACT THAT AMONG THE COMMISSION'S FIRST INTERVIEWS WILL BE MRS. PERON, LABOR EMINENCE GRISE LORENZO MIGUEL AND JACOBO TIMERMAN. THESE FIGURES ARE NEWSWORTHY, BUT THE CONSTELLATION IS ONE THAT WILL NOT DISPEL THE DOUBTS OF CONSERVATIVE ARGENTINES ABOUT THE MISSION'S INTENTIONS AND PURPOSE.

5. ~~CHURCH VOICES ON HUMAN RIGHTS~~ -----
WHILE SOME CHURCHMEN HAVE SPOKEN OUT IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS RECENTLY, TWO VOICES WERE RAISED ON THE OTHER SIDE LAST WEEK. THE RECTOR OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY WHO IS ALSO AUXILIARY BISHOP OF LA PLATA, A CITY WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WERE PARTICULARLY INTENSE, OCTAVIO DERISI, CRITICIZED THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AS A DEVICE TO ATTACK ARGENTINA. HE LEVELED AN ACCUSING FINGER AT THE UNITED STATES, STATING THE US HAS NOTHING TO TEACH ANYBODY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF AMERICA'S TOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARDS ABORTIONS. ALSO CARDINAL EDUARDO PIRONIO, WHO USED TO BE THE BISHOP OF LA PLATA AND IS NOW ON THE VATICAN STAFF, TOLD THE ARGENTINE PRESS THAT ARGENTINA'S IMAGE IN EUROPE IS A GOOD ONE, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TWO SIDES OF THE COIN AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO FIND THE NEGATIVE."

6. ~~LATE NEWS~~ -----
WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT TWO MORE OF THE AUGUST DISAPPEAREDS CALLED THEIR HOMES LAST WEEK--HASSAN AND VILLAFLO. CASTRO

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